

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite superconducting tape comprising a multiplicity of stacked and diffusion-bonded superconducting tapes and in which all elongate components extend longitudinally, and a compatible metal tape bonded to at least one exposed major surface of the superconducting tapes.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 3 in ~~which 1, wherein~~ the said metal tape is silver and ~~functions to establish~~ establishes a thickness of silver of at least 10 μm between ~~its own an~~ exposed surface thereof and any superconductive filament within the superconducting tapes.
5. (Currently Amended) A composite superconductor tape according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~ 1, having compatible metal tapes of different strengths on its two exposed major surfaces thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A composite superconducting tape according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5 in which~~ claim 1, wherein the superconducting constituent tapes are stacked in at least two parallel stacks.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A composite superconducting tape constructed from a plurality of elongate superconducting tapes which each include at least one major surface, the composite superconducting tape comprising:

a diffusion-bonded stack of the plurality of superconducting tapes in which all elongate components extend longitudinally and in which at least one of the major surfaces is exposed; and

a compatible metal tape bonded to the at least one exposed major surface.

14. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of superconducting tapes each include at least one superconductive filament and an outer casing of predominantly silver for both containing the filaments and defining a major surface, the metal tape including a first surface for abutting the at least one exposed major surface and a second surface opposite the first surface.

15. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 14, wherein the metal tape is silver and a distance between the second surface and a closest filament of the adjacent superconducting tape is at least 10 μm .

16. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 13, wherein the stack includes a second exposed major surface and the composite superconductor tape includes a second compatible metal tape which is bonded to the second exposed major surface.

17. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 16, wherein the first and second metal tapes differ in at least one characteristic.

18. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 17, wherein the differing characteristic is selected from a group consisting of thickness, strength, rigidity,

width and coefficient of thermal expansion.

19. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 13, further comprising a second diffusion-bonded stack having a plurality of superconducting tapes, wherein the two stacks are maintained in a substantially parallel configuration.

20. (New) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 13, wherein the metal tape is diffusion bonded to the exposed major surface.